

EC-5698. A communication from the Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Corporation's Grant and Legislative Request for fiscal year 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5699. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Health, United States, 2007"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5700. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2007 Section 45K Inflation Adjustment Factor" (Notice 2008-44) received on April 1, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5701. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Recognition of Tax-Exempt Status" ((RIN1545-BE37)(TD 9390)) received on April 1, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5702. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Under Section 7623 (Whistleblower Regulations)" ((RIN1545-BG74)(TD 9389)) received on April 1, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5703. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements" (Announcement 2008-27) received on April 1, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5704. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-328, "Special Election Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5705. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-327, "Producer Licensing Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5706. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-323, "Clean Cars Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5707. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-331, "Fire Hydrant Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5708. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-337, "Local Rent Supplement Program Temporary Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5709. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-336, "Supplemental Appropriations Clarification Temporary Amendment

Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5710. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-335, "Conversion Fee Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5711. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-334, "Inclusionary Zoning Implementation Temporary Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5712. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-333, "Extension of Time to Dispose of the Old Congress Heights School Temporary Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5713. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-332, "Department of Transportation Establishment Temporary Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5714. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-330, "Fire-Standard-Compliant Cigarettes Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5715. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-324, "Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5716. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-325, "College Savings Program Increased Tax Benefit Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5717. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-326, "Omnibus Executive Service System, Policy and Fire Systems, and Retirement Modifications for Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier and Fire Chief Dennis L. Rubin Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated

POM-295. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to strengthen mortgage fraud laws; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-296. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to include venture capital firms that are developing alternative and renewable energy sources in the Florida Opportunity Fund; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-297. A resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Ferry County of the State of Washington relative to federal lands in the County; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-298. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to designate a portion of State Road 934 as "Rev. Dr. CP. Preston, Jr. Street"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-299. A petition from a nongovernmental entity relative to Iranian Kurdish refugees currently residing in a camp between the Jordan and Iraq border; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-300. A resolution transmitted by a private citizen relative to the Uintah Treaty; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

POM-301. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to enact legislation to change the computation of the State Federal Medical Assistance Percentage; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 243

Whereas, the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) determines the distribution of federal matching funds for medical assistance programs, including Medicaid. The United States Department of Health and Human Services calculates the FMAP annually for each state. The formula for calculating the FMAP is determined by a state's per capita income as calculated by the United States Department of Commerce. In 2003, the state lost about \$160 million in federal Medicaid funds when General Motors made a one-time \$16 billion payment to its underfunded pension plan. This one-time payment was included and skewed the calculation of the state's per capita income; and

Whereas, recent contract negotiations between three domestic automakers and the UAW will generate large one-time payments beginning in 2010 to a Volunteer Employee Benefits Association (VEBA) trust fund to be administered by the union. These payments will be similar in character to the payment made by General Motors for underfunded pension liabilities that skewed the FMAP calculation of state per capita income in 2003; and

Whereas, State and local governments are encouraged to prefund their retiree health benefits as a result of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 45 reporting requirement. These payments will be similar in character to the General Motors one-time payment for underfunded pension liabilities that skewed the FMAP calculation of state per capita income; and

Whereas, the combined contributions of the automobile companies will result in over \$60 billion that will overstate the state's personal income by billions of dollars. The prefunding of public employee retirement by state and local governments will result in an exponential increase in this overstatement. This would place the state at risk of a decline in its FMAP for the three years that these contributions affect personal income calculations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize Congress to enact legislation to change the computing of state Federal Medical Assistance Percentage by disregarding employer contributions toward retiree health care in calculating Medicaid; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-302. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to eliminate provisions of law which reduce social security benefits for those receiving benefits from government retirement systems; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor social security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned social security benefit for persons who also receive federal, state, or local retirement; and

Whereas, the intent of Congress in enacting the GPO and the WEP provisions was to address concerns that a public employee who had worked primarily in federal, state, and local government employment might receive a public pension in addition to the same social security benefit as a worker who had worked only in employment covered by social security throughout his career; and

Whereas, the purpose of Congress in enacting these reduction provisions was to provide a disincentive for public employees to receive two pensions; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving federal, state, or local government retirement benefits who would also be entitled to a social security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor social security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the social security benefit; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement benefits, in addition to working in covered employment and paying into the social security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned social security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce social security benefits for such persons by as much as one-half of the uncovered public retirement benefits earned; and

Whereas, because of these calculation characteristics, the GPO and WEP have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the GPO and WEP social security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating them. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Report to accompany S. 1858, A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such

Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-280).

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2162. A bill to improve the treatment and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-281).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2828. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Glacier National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. BOND):

S. 2829. A bill to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. MCCONNELL) (by request):

S. 2830. A bill to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement; to the Committee on Finance pursuant to section 2103(c) of Public Law 107-210.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2831. A bill to reauthorize the Federal Trade Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. Res. 505. A resolution commending the University of Kansas men's basketball team for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Basketball Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. Res. 506. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that funding provided by the United States to the Government of Iraq in the future for reconstruction and training for security forces be provided as a loan to the Government of Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Con. Res. 74. A concurrent resolution honoring the Prime Minister of Ireland, Bertie Ahern, for his service to the people of Ireland and to the world and welcoming the Prime Minister to the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 594

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 594, a bill to limit the use, sale, and transfer of cluster munitions.

S. 626

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 626, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

S. 630

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 630, a bill to amend part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a minimum payment rate by Medicare Advantage organizations for services furnished by a critical access hospital and a rural health clinic under the Medicare program.

S. 937

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 937, a bill to improve support and services for individuals with autism and their families.

S. 1223

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1223, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to support efforts by local or regional television or radio broadcasters to provide essential public information programming in the event of a major disaster, and for other purposes.

S. 1437

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1437, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.